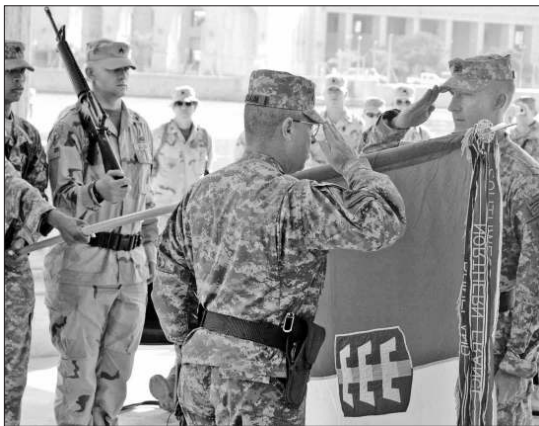


130th takes over engineering duties in Iraq



MATTHEW CLIFTON/Courtesy U.S. Army

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Buxbaum (center), and Col. Thomas W. Kula, commander, 130th Engineer Brigade, V Corps, Hanau, Germany, salute after uncasing their brigade's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Victory, Iraq. The 130th is replacing the 20th Engineer Brigade, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C., for their second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 130th will be responsible for Corps-level engineering operations.

V Corps command returning to Iraq without Sanchez

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Early next year, the Army is sending to Iraq the same war-fighting command headquarters that was in charge of U.S. land forces there in 2003, but without its commander.

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the V Corps commander who came under fire last year for the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal that happened while he was in charge in Iraq, remains in his job but will not deploy to Iraq. The Pentagon did not say why Sanchez will not be deploying with V Corps headquarters.

Instead, the overall command in Iraq will be headed by Peter W. Chiarelli, a two-star general whom President Bush has nominated for a third star. He currently is commander of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas.

Chiarelli's war-fighting command in Iraq — known as Multi-

National Corps Iraq — will be comprised of V Corps headquarters staff as well as staff members from other U.S. units, the Pentagon said Tuesday announcing Chiarelli's nomination for appointment to lieutenant general.

In previous rotations of U.S. forces in Iraq, the Multi-National Corps Iraq commander has deployed with his own corps headquarters, as Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz did with III Corps in 2004 and Lt. Gen. John Vines did with 18th Airborne Corps early in 2005.

Last February the Pentagon announced that V Corps would be the next war-fighting headquarters to rotate to Iraq in early 2006, and it said other V Corps elements would go as well, including members of the 20th Military Intelligence Brigade, whose commander, Col. Thomas M. Pappas, was held partly responsible for the Abu Ghraib problems in an Army investigation.

Top bin Laden aide named in Afghan jail break

BY ALICIA A. CALDWELL

The Associated Press

FORT BLISS, Texas — A man once considered a top al-Qaida operative in Southeast Asia escaped from a U.S.-run detention facility in Afghanistan in July and cannot testify against the soldier who allegedly mistreated him, a defense lawyer involved in a prison abuse case said.

Omar al-Farouq was one of Osama bin Laden's top lieutenants until Indonesian authorities captured him in the summer of 2002 and turned him over to the U.S.

Although the escape was widely reported when it occurred on July 10, al-Farouq was identified by an alias and the U.S. military only confirmed Tuesday that he was among those who fled.

An Indonesian anti-terrorism official, Maj. Gen. Ansyad Mhai, on Wednesday sharply criticized the U.S. government for failing to inform him that al-Farouq was no longer behind bars.

Omar al-Farouq was to testify in U.S. prison abuse case; Indonesia fears escape will fuel fresh outbreak of terror

"We know nothing about the escape of Omar al-Farouq," he said. "He is a dangerous terrorist for us, his escape will increase the threat of terrorism in Indonesia."

"We need to coordinate security here as soon as possible to anticipate his return," he said. "The escape of al-Farouq could bring fresh wind to the operation of terrorism and could energize the new movement of terrorist attacks in Southeast Asia and the world."

An Army lawyer for Sgt. Alan J. Driver, a reservist accused of abusing Bagram detainees, asked Tuesday where al-Farouq was and what the Army had done to find him in time for Driver's court date.

Capt. John B. Parker, a prosecutor, said al-Farouq and three others escaped from the Bagram detention center and have not been found.

"If we find him ... we will make him available," Parker said.

Members of Driver's company, testifying by speaker phone in court Tuesday, identified the detainee Driver was accused of abusing as Omar al-Farouq, who was featured in a Time magazine cover story in September 2002. The article, titled "Confessions of an al-Qaida Terrorist," detailed his plans to carry out attacks in Southeast Asia, including a plot to bomb U.S. embassies near the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Driver's Army lawyer, Capt. Michael Waddington, questioned members of Driver's company about who had access to al-Farouq, specifically asking whether the CIA had ordered military police officers to do certain things to al-Farouq.

Al-Farouq could have been the first de-

tainee to testify against a soldier in the Afghanistan prisoner abuse case.

Driver, a reservist from the Ohio-based 377th Military Police Company, is charged with maltreatment and assault of three detainees, including one who later died, at the Bagram facility in 2002. He is accused of slamming al-Farouq against a wall.

In earlier cases of prisoner abuse in Afghanistan, the alleged victims either were dead or unidentified. Other alleged victims in Driver's case also cannot testify. One was released from custody and cannot be found, and the other has died.

Driver is one of 14 soldiers accused in the abuse investigation after two detainees died in American custody in 2002.

Military prosecutors had accused Driver of hitting one of the detainees while he was shackled in a cell.

During a preliminary hearing Tuesday, lawyers and an independent investigator heard testimony from several witnesses who said they saw Driver mistreat detainees.

er operative reportedly killed by U.S. air strikes in the city.

Saudi king asks Bush to free Saddam's brother

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — The Saudi king has asked President Bush to release Saddam Hussein's half brother on humanitarian grounds, the daily Al-Riyadh reported Wednesday.

The paper quoted unidentified sources as saying that King Abdullah had sent a letter to Bush asking him to release Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti because he is suffering from an advanced stage of cancer.

From staff and Associated Press reports

ServiceSolutions.com

- Steel based purpose built ISO shelter CSC approved
- Standard 4 man workspace
- Internal lighting, power and comms can be configured to customer's requirements



OPERATIONAL PORTABLE OFFICE

Tina Best

Tina.Best@servicesolutions.com

Headquarters in Kuwait
Offices in Iraq, Qatar, Dubai, Bahrain, Afghanistan

- + 965 224 129 5
- + 965 224 129 6
- + 965 224 129 7
- + 965 769 3575
- + 965 983 8066
- + 965 224 1298 fax

Service Solutions is a division of TBM — an American owned company nationally involved with serving the US Military throughout the world.

Service Solutions

U.S. warplanes strike targets near Husaybah

For the second time in a week, American warplanes launched air strikes on suspected insurgent targets in and around the city of Husaybah, officials said Wednesday.

The targets were "several safe houses ... one terrorist leader ... and an IED cell in the act of emplacing roadside bombs," according to a U.S. military news release.

One of the strikes was aimed at Abu Asim, reported to be an al-Qaida in Iraq operative whose role was assisting and arming foreign fighters in Iraq. Abu Asim had recently taken over for another